

(Area in acres)

States	Kharif 2002	Kharif 2003	Kharif 2004	Kharif 2005
Andhra Pradesh	9,404	13,500	1,76,000	8,25,000
Madhya Pradesh	3,676	33,000	2,12,798	3,36,597
Gujarat	22,577	1,03,000	3,11,157	3,73,293
Maharashtra	30,699	54,000	3,99,000	12,20,000
Karnataka	5,401	7,500	84,764	69,772
Tamil Nadu	925	19,000	29,640	44,500
Punjab	—	—	—	1,80,000
Haryana	—	—	—	30,000
Rajasthan	—	—	—	5,703
TOTAL:	72,682	2,30,000	12,13,359	30,84,865

(b) Genetically Modified Rice and Soyabean have not been approved for cultivation.

(c) to (e) Government are not contemplating either imposition of ban on GM crops or formulation of any policy keeping in view the ban allegedly imposed by the America and other European countries on such crops.

Inspection facilities for pesticides and other harmful contents in fruits and vegetables

†1050. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any arrangement in consultation with the State Governments in the recent years for inspection and study of pesticides and other harmful substances present in the fruits and vegetables in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of various harmful substances found by such inspection and study?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides only after satisfying itself regarding their efficacy and safety. Toxicity and residue data generated under supervised trials is analysed and used to fix Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder. The inspection of fruits and vegetables for the presence of pesticide residues and other harmful substances falls under the purview of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. However, as per the directions of the Inter Ministerial Committee constituted to review the use of hazardous chemicals and insecticides, 33 samples of vegetables have been drawn from Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee, Azadpur, Delhi since June, 2006 and tested for residues of organo-chlorine, organo-phosphorus and synthetic pyrethroids pesticides. Residues of chlorpyrifos were detected in two of these samples at the level of 0.18 ppm. 24 of these samples have also been analysed for the presence of heavy metals like lead, cadmium and arsenic. The heavy metals found in the samples of vegetables were below the maximum limit prescribed under the Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also taken up a scheme for Monitoring of Pesticide Residues under which 21 laboratories under various Ministries/ Departments have been provided with equipments to undertake analysis of pesticide residues in vegetables, water, meat & meat products, and marine products.

Transgenic crops

1051. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of transgenic crops that are in the pipeline to be introduced in the country, apart from Bt. Cotton;

(b) whether food safety and environment risk assessment tests have been carried out on the above transgenic crops which are going to be introduced into the country;